

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ERDE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /083 W
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O 151355Z JUN 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2197
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE UNN
INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE UNN
USCINCEUR UNN

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0307/1

FROM MBFR REPRESENTATIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: COMMENT ON UK PAPER ON DATA DISAGGREGATION

REF: A) NATO 5277 DTG 140920Z JUN 77; B) NATO 5316 DTG 141818Z JUN
77

1. THE DELEGATION FINDS THE UK PAPER (REF B) A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPC DISCUSSION OF THE FRG DATA PROPOSAL. IN PARTICULAR, WE FIND PARA 5 AN EFFECTIVE, SUCCINCT STATEMENT OF THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF PROCEEDING WITH THE FRG PROPOSAL AS TABLED AND THE DIFFICULT CHOICES THAT NATO THEN WOULD FACE.

2. THE THREE OPERATIVE PROPOSALS OF THE UK CONCORD WITH RECENT DELEGATION COMMENTS ON THE FRG PROPOSAL, BUT ADD ASPECTS WHICH COULD BE THE BEGINNINGS OF FINDING A COMPROMISE POSITION THAT

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THE FRG COULD AGREE TO.

3. FIRST, THE UK WOULD NATIONALLY DESIGNATE THE RESIDUAL PERSONNEL. DELEGATION AGREES OF COURSE THAT THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FIRST STEP: THERE ARE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NECESSARY DISCLAIMERS, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN PARAS 6 AND 7 OF THE GERMAN PAPER, AND THESE ARE ADDRESSED IN A SEPARATE

MESSAGE.

4. SECOND, THE UK WOULD REQUIRE A STATEMENT TO THE EAST AT THE OUTSET THAT WE WOULD DISAGGREGATE AIR MANPOWER. AS A COMPROMISE WITH THE FRG, LONDON WOULD BE WILLING TO PROPOSE TO THE EAST THAT AIR MANPOWER DISAGGREGATION BE DEFERRED, BUT ONLY ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IF THAT PROPOSAL WERE REJECTED, AIR DISAGGREGATION WOULD COMENCE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH GROUND.

5. THIRD, THE UK OPPOSES MOVING TO DIVISIONAL TOTALS AT THE OUTSET, BUT RECOGNIZES THAT SUCH DISAGGREGATION MAY EVENTUALLY BE NECESSARY.

6. THE REMAINDER OF THE UK PAPER DEMONSTRATES THE BRITISH PROPOSED METHOD OF DISAGGREGATION, WITH EXAMPLE DATA. THE ONLY DEFECT IS ITS CONTINUED USE OF A PURELY FUNCTIONAL APPROACH TO AIR MANPOWER DISAGGREGATION. THE MAJOR DIFFICULTY WITH THAT APPROACH IS THAT THERE IS NO EASILY COMMUNICATED WAY TO SAY THAT AN "OPERATIONAL FLYING UNIT" IS. IT IS THEREFORE LIKELY THAT EACH NATION WOULD INCLUDE VARYING AMOUNTS OF ITS BASE/COMBAT SUPPORT AND ITS COMMAND-CONTROL-COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL, JUST AS THEY APPEAR TO HAVE DONE IN THE AC276(D)6 DOCUMENT THE UK HAS USED. THE UK PROPOSAL WOULD THUS RESULT IN DATA THAT WOULD REFER NOT TO AN EASILY IDENTIFIABLE REAL WORLD ENTITY, BUT TO A SYNTHETIC CONSTRUCT CREATED FOR MBFR PURPOSES, "OPERATIONAL FLYING UNITS." A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF THIS PROBLEM IS THE US NUMBER THAT WOULD BE TABLED UNDER THE BRITISH APPROACH -- 14,700. THAT NUMBER IS NEITHER USAF NOR THE 17TH AIR FORCE, BUT A CONGLOMERATE OF SUBJECTS.

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FROM MBFR REPRESENTATIVE

7. IN SHORT, THE UK FUNCTIONAL PROPOSAL WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
DEFINE TO THE EAST AND, ONCE DEFINED AND RESPONDED TO, IS NOT
LIKELY TO PRODUCE READILY USEABLE DATA THAT THE WEST CAN COMPARE
WITH ITS HOLDINGS ON WARSAW PACT AIR AND AIR DEFENSE MANPOWER.

8. THE DELEGATION BELIEVES A BETTER APPROACH WOULD BE ONE WHICH
DRAWS ON EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, AS RECOMMENDED IN MBFR VIENNA 297.
IN THIS REGARD, THE UK STATEMENT THAT "THERE IS NO FORMATION ANAL-
OGOUS TO THE ARMY CORPS GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO THE AIR FORCES OF
ALL PARTICIPANTS" IS AN OVERSTATEMENT. JUST AS THERE ARE PROBLEMS
WITH THE ARMY CORPS APPROACH IN GROUND FORCES (FOR EXAMPLE:
CANADIAN BRIGADE, INDEPENDENT DIVISIONS SUCH AS THE POLISH AIRBORNE,
MILITARY DISTRICTS INSTEAD OF ARMIES, ETC.), SO THERE ARE
PROBLEMS WITH AN ORGANIZATIONAL APPROACH TO AIR FORCES. BUT THEY ARE
MANAGEABLE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF TACTICAL AIR COMMANDS AND
TACTICAL AIR ARMIES IS IN FACT "GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO THE AIR FORCES

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OF ALL PARTICIPANTS," AND THAT ITS USE WOULD GIVE US DATA ON
EASTERN FORCES THAT WE COULD RELATE TO WESTERN INTELLIGENCE
HOLDINGS.

9. RAF-GERMANY AND THE CANADIAN AIR GROUP ARE SUFFICIENTLY LIKE
COMMANDS TO BE SO DESIGNATED. EVERY OTHER WESTERN AIR FORCE HAS A
TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (BELGIAN, NETHERLANDS, AND GERMAN TAC, AND US
USAFE). EVERY EASTERN AIR FORCE HAS EITHER A COMMAND (GDR),
ARMY (USSR) OR BOTH (POLAND AND CSSR). DATA FOR SUCH ORGANIZA-
TIONS ARE READILY AVAILABLE IN NATIONAL CAPITALS AND THE DEFIN-
ITION OF THESE FORMATIONS NOT ONLY CAN BE SPELLED OUT TO THE EAST IN
STRAIGHTFORWARD TERMS THAT THEY WILL UNDERSTAND BUT ALSO IT
REFLECTS THE STRUCTURE OF THE FORMATIONS THEMSELVES, NOT
SOMETHING INVENTED BY THE WEST FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE.

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